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7 FEATURE PAIN & PROFIT

It's boom time for Twin Cities construction, and human traffickers have come to feed. By Susan Du

4 NEWS

THE SHORTLIST Church guns

BLOTTER You should probably open a restaurant right now

15 FOOD

VEGAN EATS At places that aren't all-vegan

19 A-LIST

CINE LATINO 2018 See Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma* before wide release

26 FILM

MID90S Nostalgia can't save it

27 THEATER

THE 4 SEASONS A *My Dinner with Andre* for the working class

29 FASHION

STREET STYLE Art Attack at Northrup King

30 MUSIC

ELLE PF And their feminist orchestral rock

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY CROSSWORD

35 CLASSIFIEDS

SAVAGE LOVE

cover credit

Illustration by EDEL RODRIGUEZ

Editorial EDITOR Pete Kotz

MANAGING EDITOR Hannah Sayle
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NEWS EDITOR Mike Mullen
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FOOD EDITOR Emily Cassel
ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster
STAFF WRITERS Susan Du Hannah Jones

COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler,
Tony Libera, Michael Madden,
Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Galen Fletcher, Alma Guzman, Lucy Hawthorne, E. Katie Holm, Shelly Mosman, Tony Nelson, Colin Michael Simmons

Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne LAYOUT EDITOR Jake Luck

Production

DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jackie Kilmer

Publisher

Mary Erickson

Advertising

SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Leah Carson, Kevin Lenhart, Nick Rupar, Brian Thunberg

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Jackson Dougherty, Ashley Farlow,

Luke Gildemeister, Jacob Johnston SENIOR MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

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ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Madeline Burke, Carly Dabroski

CP Digital

CP DIGITAL DIRECTOR Anthony Englund
CP DIGITAL MANAGER Joev Ryan

Marketing and Promotions

MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt MARKETING COORDINATOR

Emma Engeldinger MARKETING INTERN Molly Kwakenat

Business and Administration

FINANCE MANAGER Bernadette Botoshe STAFF ACCOUNTANT Du Nguyen Ho

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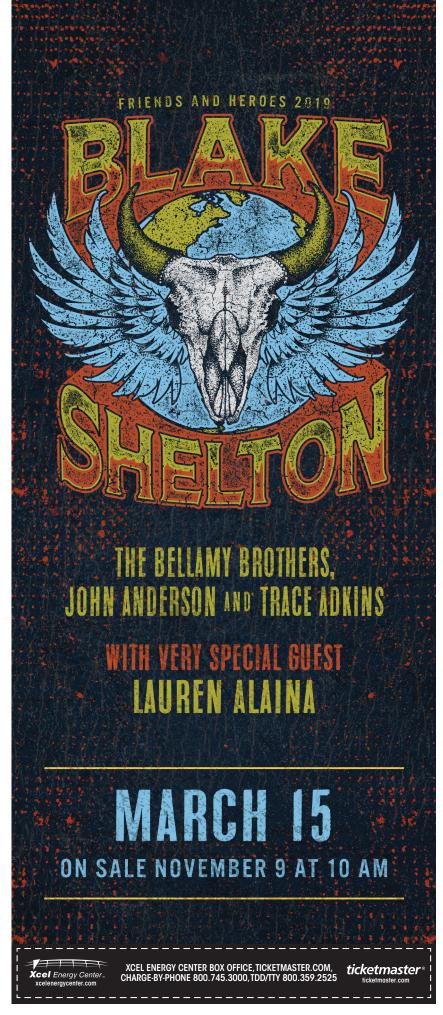
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E-MAIL adinfo@citypages.com
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THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

In Memory of Garv

Gary Edlund passed away on the 25th of October, surrounded by family.

He is survived by numerous sisters and brothers, daughters and sons, and granddaughters and grandsons. He was never alone.

Some cancer took his life.

Gary was born April 20th, 1950, and graduated from Minneapolis South High

His first job was at the First Minnehaha Bank at age 17. His acumen in banking led to an illustrious career spanning 24 years. After an economic downturn, however, the amount of lay-offs left him distrustful of the banking industry in general and he made the difficult decision to take a payout and retire, hopefully benefiting a co-worker with a family.

After a 1 year sabbatical, he chose to pursue his interest in the nightlife scene happening around the Twin Cities metro area. He fell in love with this lifestyle, and service industry work specifically, as the hours suited his ever-expanding galaxy of cohorts and conspirators.

"There is nothing more fun than going out."

He quickly became the defacto impresario of Twin Cities nightlife. His desire to work in and around the club/bar/restaurant scene was cultivated in the '70's but realized in the '90's.

His insider's knowledge of many U.S. cities inspired travelers to experience all that was available if they were willing to take a leap into a new experience with respect and enthusiasm. (One of his tour guides to Chicago has attainted cult-like status and is sought by collectors.)

One of the early fans of the Milwaukee band Truc, he became both party promoter and rock and roll historian. A chance encounter in a Hollywood bar with the band Tavares turned his focus solely to the seductive grooves of R&B and disco. It is widely rumored that his career as a host lasted from 1973 to 2018.

If this timeline is true, that could be a record of the deceptively dangerous domain of the trend-telling and story-sustaining world of life love. The few that knew him are blessed. To say he will be missed is not enough.

If you know him, to say that he is gone is not true.

\$1 billion

Estimated value of Minnesota's deer hunting industry

50

Percentage of new guitar buyers who are women

56

Percentage of Americans who say Donald Trump has done more to divide the country than unite it

Percentage of Americans who say the media has done more to divide than unite

"I like my politics with a side of weird."

Reader Matthew Martin responds to "Klobuchar opponent Jim Newberger's setting his own campaign signs on fire [video]," at citypages.com.

GUN CULTURE

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. Census, there are now 393 million guns in America. That's enough for every man, woman, and childwith an extra 68 million in case you forget yours at the bar.

But, weirdly enough, it hasn't made us any safer. So the Fort Des Moines Church of Christ in Iowa is compensating in a big way. It has a five-man security team, keeps its nursery location a secret, and stocks body bags in case of a massacre. Rev. Mike Demastus also preaches armed from a bulletproof pulpit.

When reached for comment, Jesus muttered something inaudible, then let out a sigh.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

This Minneapolis company could be the secret reason we have one of the country's

BEST COFFEE CULTURES

15 amazing old

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GRETA VAN FLEET is not the end of the world

Video of Sheriff Rich Stanek's deputies beating up protesters is 'TOO VIOLENT' for Facebook

WE'RE NO. 3!

Minneapolis ranked among the nation's best places to open a restaurant

ou may have heard it said that "the Midwest is best." We've got cheese curds and pizza farms. Our lakes are literally Superior. People tend to be nice, or at least "nice."

But there's another thing that makes our fair region better than the rest of the country: It's the place to be if you want to open a restaurant, according to LendingTree.

In a study released last month, the brokerage firm looked at the 50 largest cities in the U.S. to figure out which is the "most promising" to open a restaurant. Minneapolis snagged the No. 3 spot, right behind Milwaukee and Cincinnati, leading LendingTree to proclaim that "opportunity is ripe in 'flyover country."

The company's research took into account the number of restaurants per 100,000 households with incomes of

\$50,000 or more, and the number of restaurants per 100.000 residents between 35 and 54. Lending Tree also factored in the average estimated annual revenue and estimated payroll costs per employee.

The last part may have you scratching your head a little. Generally speaking, getting into the restaurant biz is a challenge bordering on you'd-have-tobe-crazy-to-do-it. We're regularly saying goodbye to popular, well-liked eateries that still couldn't hang on.

You'll also notice they didn't factor in some seemingly significant stats like, say, the price of real estate, or literally any cost

that isn't payroll. But then, we're not the



Inside Hai Hai in northeast Minneapolis

JEFF WHEELER, STAR TRIBUNE

Nation's Leading Online Loan Marketplace. What do we know?

LendingTree is ready to admit that "Minneapolis has seen a number of restaurant closings in the past year, many opening and shuttering their doors within 12 months." But they add: "As Minneapolis' culinary profile rises, new restaurant owners could benefit from diners who are eager to try the next big thing." -EMILY CASSEL

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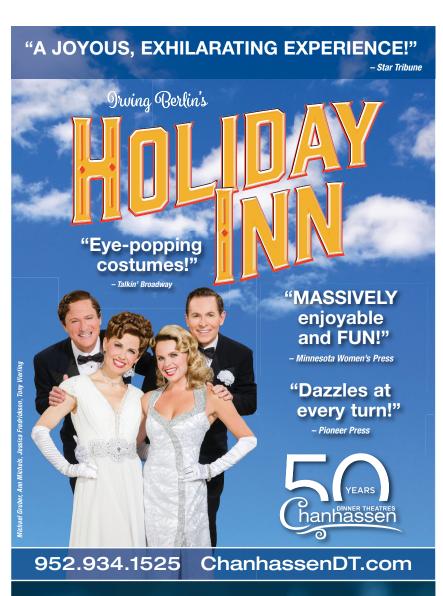
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I. THE BOTTOM DROPS OUT

imer Iriarte first dreamed of America at age 16, after growing rawboned from raising vegetables in Honduras' valley lands. It was this work that incapacitated his father before him, forcing Iriarte to drop out of school after the fifth grade to help support four younger siblings.

With no interest in joining the gang that controlled his neighborhood—which robbed and killed young men who refused to join their ranks—his only option was to work with his hands.

Yet Honduras was in the throes of a constitutional crisis. President Manuel Zelaya, a modest leftist, had raised the minimum wage in an attempt to salve one of Latin America's largest wealth gaps. He'd also fraternized with Venezuelan socialist Hugo Chavez, a red flag to Honduras' elite.

So the military kidnapped Zelaya and packed him off to Costa Rica. Protests erupted. The insurgent government fired into crowds and assassinated union leaders, human rights activists, and journalists. Civil liberties were suspended.

The United States, which both trained and funded Honduran soldiers, did little to defend democracy.

When the nation's tourism industry collapsed, many women found work in sweatshops. They were considered to be nimbler and more docile—and less likely to unionize. Men were left with few options outside the drug trade. So the doe-eyed Iriarte made for America.

He was apprehended at the southern border, one of 18,000 unaccompanied Honduran children to arrive that year. He applied for asylum and was paroled to an elder half-sister. But his application languished, while his presence inflamed tensions between the sister and her husband. Iriarte struck out once more, disappearing into America's underground economy.

He grew corn and tomatoes up and down the East Coast, then ventured into construction with a company that shipped him from site to site throughout the heartland. For years he lived out of cheap hotels, sending money home every month.

Eventually he found himself building a house in Apple Valley, where his luck changed.

One day Ricardo Batres, a pint-sized, sweet-talking El Salvadoran man, walked onto the site and introduced himself as owner of American Contractors and Associates. He dazzled Iriarte with offers



IT'S BOOM TIME FOR TWIN CITIES CONSTRUCTION, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKERS HAVE COME TO FEED

of a lucrative partnership, a room in a house free of charge, and-to celebrate the completion of their first project-a pleasure cruise down the Mississippi

They were treasures Iriarte, now 21, will never forget.

Yet time would quell his hopes. The house Batres rented for 10 workers came without heat and hot water, nor were they allowed to use the stove. The landlord eventually threatened eviction, claiming Batres hadn't paid the rent.

The job consisted of framing and siding homes. But standard safety precautions went neglected. The men began to get hurt. Among them was Iriarte, who fell from second-story scaffolding while trying to lift a roof truss on a townhome in Golden Valley. He splintered a bone in the base of his spine.

He called the boss in panic. Batres told him to keep working and forget about going to the hospital, Iriarte says, lest he be deported. Batres sent him to a "traditional healer" instead, claiming he'd met the woman in El Salvador during his time as a military officer, when she treated wounded soldiers. She turned out to be little more than a woman who gave massages at her home in Fridley.

Workers whispered of quitting. Several notified Batres of their intent to find better employ if conditions didn't improve. But before it came to that, ICE zeroed in.

On a summer morning last year, three Immigration SUVs surrounded the men as they set off for work from their house in Bloomington. As agents demanded their IDs, Iriarte sat frozen in a co-worker's car, mortified at the thought of failing his family.

He was locked up in the Carver County jail, where unrelenting pain and guilt kept him awake at night.

Batres came to visit at first. He vowed to find an attorney, having Iriarte sign papers he couldn't read. But as the months dragged on and the young worker was summoned to court, no lawyer appeared at his side.

Eventually, the chronicle of Iriarte and his fellow workers reached Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, who charged Batres in September with insurance fraud, theft of public funds, and labor trafficking-profiting through force or intimidation.

According to the complaint, Batres skimped on workers comp insurance, using the specter of deportation to keep injured workers from seeing doctors. When one man broke his back and went to the hospital, Batres applied for emergency medical funds and stole more than \$45,000 from public insurance programs, Freeman contends. He allegedly tricked workers into signing statements saying they were independent contractors, not employees.

Batres has yet to make a plea. His attorney, Frederic Bruno, did not respond for comment.





MAPLE GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Freeman announced the charges at Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), a labor advocacy center in Powderhorn. In attendance was a contingent of union stonemasons, carpenters, electricians, and plumbers in work boots and blaze orange. It was a triumphant moment.

Laborers say the Twin Cities construction industry is riddled with such abuses. In the mad rush to amass desperately needed housing stock, they've only become more obvious.

Yeovani Castro Romero says he was strangled when he tried to quit. The boss, Douglas Maroto Sanchez of Martinez Construction, was cited for fifth-degree assault.

tractors, most private projects don't. The opacity of the production line makes it nearly impossible to tell whether true professionals or harried cobblers are responsible for all the minute details that spell the difference between a 10-year or 100-year building.

"The more immigration enforcement pushes people further into the shadows, they become that much less willing to stand up for themselves, they become that much cheaper to use."

Yet it's rare for anyone to be prosecuted. Freeman's move marks just the first case in Minnesota history to invoke the statute against labor trafficking.

II. THE PYRAMID OF PROSPERITY

onstruction sites are protean beehives, with laborers practicing every trade imaginable in the birth cycle of a building, coming and going as they're needed.

General contractors auction slices of work to subcontractors, who then subcontract to second and third tiers. Each faces fierce bidding for the jobs, driving incentive to wring money out of every stop.

Though public projects like schools must disclose the names and bids of con-

It also makes it easy to conceal the cheating of laborers, though the signs are many.

Kevin Pranis of the Laborers International union says his members see workers arrive in unmarked vans with Southern license plates, wearing tennis shoes without hard hats. While local contractors tend to know each other, these arrivals are fleeting. Some don't understand English. Others say they're not allowed to talk. Now and then they'll admit they have no home to call their own, relying on employers for housing. On Monday mornings, it's not uncommon for union members to find a great deal of work accomplished over the weekend, out of sight.

A few years ago, contractors spotted a 14-year-old boy on a job site, says Dan McConnell of Minneapolis Building Trades.

The union collected statements and confronted the general contractor, but by then the child had disappeared.

Hard evidence is difficult to pin down. A worker who's injured and taken away in the back of a pickup truck may never be seen again. Those who bear witness risk blacklisting if they speak up for victims.

Plenty of companies win contracts by underpaying undocumented labor, Pranis says, yet his members tend not to blame the immigrant at the bottom of the dogpile. Those who win their daily work based on dollars and cents are acutely aware that pressure comes from the top, where developers only have eyes for price.

"No amount of immigration enforcement is going to help," Pranis says. "In fact, what we see is the opposite. The more immigration enforcement pushes people further into the shadows, they become that much less willing to stand up for themselves, they become that much cheaper to use."

Adalid Zavala Lopez, a 38-year-old Honduran man who supports a wife and two children 3,000 miles away, is a sparing speaker with a perceptive gaze. He went to work for Ricardo Batres in June 2017 at the recommendation of Iriarte, a hometown friend. Three weeks later, he was sitting in the Carver County jail.

A month crawled by. Zavala Lopez decided to represent himself. Through an interpreter, he managed to convince a judge to set bail because he'd never committed a crime.

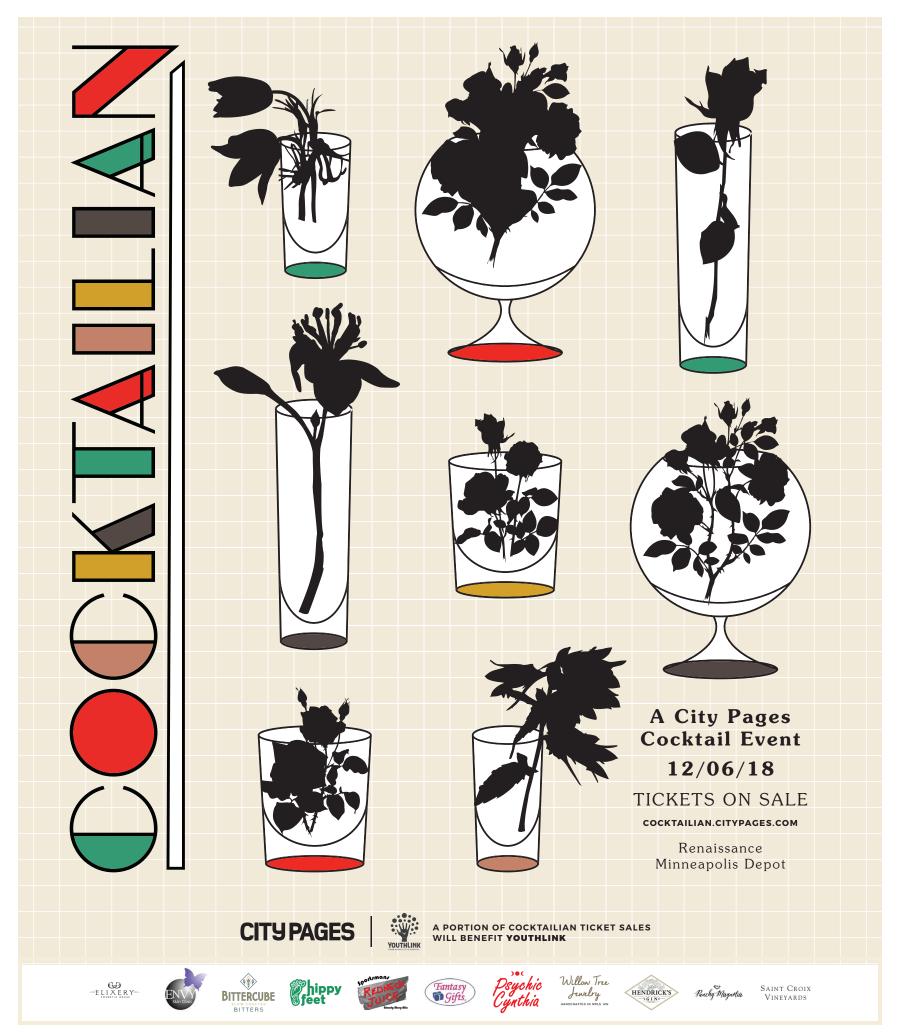
Batres posted the bond, then used his own address to complete the paperwork. That meant Zavala Lopez had to make his weekly check-in call with immigration from Batres' house.

The day after his release, Zavala Lopez returned to work, confronted by a fresh agreement, he says: Batres wanted him to work off \$13,000-\$6,000 for the bond, and \$7,000 for a lawyer who'd help him settle his case and obtain permanent

Batres boasted of having powerful connections within ICE, says Zavala Lopez, implying he'd had the workers arrested when they tried to leave, just as he was responsible for their release. Feeling defenseless and indebted, Zavala Lopez worked up to 60 hours a week.

A few months later, he and another man carried a 300-pound prefab wall through a McMansion site in Lake Elmo. As they tried to anchor it in place, a whip of wind toppled the wall, which broke and rained down in chunks. Buried beneath the debris, Zavala Lopez's entire body went numb. Two co-workers dug him out and called the boss.

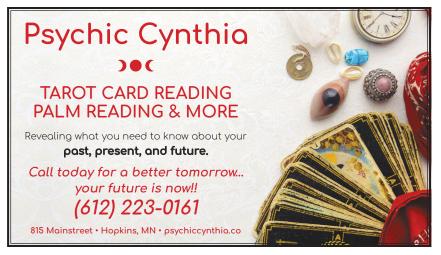
Batres ordered them to stay put-he was coming. But a half-hour later, he was nowhere to be found, Zavala Lopez says. His co-workers slung his arms over their shoulders and dragged him, wailing, to a car, where they nudged him gingerly into the passenger seat.





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Batres intercepted the workers en route to the hospital and took Zavala Lopez the rest of the way. According to the criminal complaint, Batres told doctors Zavala Lopez was a personal friend whose injuries came from helping him clean out his house. This allegedly allowed him to receive emergency medical assistance, including \$31,000 through Medicaid, \$10,000 through Minnesota Care, and \$4,200 through the Hennepin County Charity Care program.

X-rays revealed multiple spinal fractures. Doctors fitted Zavala Lopez with a body cast and kept him immobilized for six days. He was released with a rubber girdle, homebound for five months.

Slowly he returned to work, a day here and there, four or five hours at a time. Consigned to a narrow range of motion, he can no longer lift more than 50 pounds, run, or play soccer. The pain is abiding.

"The anger is there, but you have to trust that things are going to work out, and that's that," he says now. "You can't stay that way, because you could poison yourself."

Zavala Lopez called Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha. An outreach worker once handed him a flier on a job site, which he'd kept. Still, he was fearful of Batres' presumed influence with Immigration, and would only explain his story in fits and starts. He scheduled, then canceled, several meetings with CTUL.

It was only through persistent reassurance that Zavala Lopez finally agreed to meet. That's when he revealed he'd just been released from ICE custody, where his friend Iriarte remained.

CTUL arranged for attorneys to meet with both. They discovered that, despite Batres' promises, no lawyer had worked on their behalf.

The cost of labor floats up in a boom economy when there's plenty of work to go around, leaving incentive to overlook those who toil in less than humane conditions.

"When I talk to [developers], they're pushing back on me about how much it costs to hire a union worker," McConnell says. "But there shouldn't be any reason why our prices are higher than any other contractor unless they're cheating: Their materials are substandard, they're not paying the wages."

After all, large developers like Mortensen and Ryan use union labor, he notes, and they're far from destitute.

Iriarte and Zavala Lopez worked on projects headed by Reuter Walton, whose portfolio includes luxury apartments, and Lennar, the largest home-builder in America. Both blamed unnamed subcontractors for enlisting Batres without their knowledge.

"If you're a developer, construction is your business and the money you make is based on your ability to know the business really well," says Pranis. "The truth is, they know all kinds of details they don't want you to know about, and they know enough to know when not to ask."

III. THE LOSING SPORT

very other Thursday, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha holds a meeting at its Chicago Avenue center for workers whose bosses refuse to pay.

Most agreements in the shadow economy are verbal, timesheets and paystubs nonexistent. Employers occasionally dispute workers' handwritten logs. Sometimes, they promise a lump sum upon completion of a project, then refuse to settle up, claiming they've yet to be paid themselves. Workers can end up losing thousands of dollars.

Over the past decade, CTUL has recovered more than \$175,000 in lost wages, mostly by confronting employers without the help of authorities.

In these he-said, she-said disputes, CTUL doesn't consider itself judge of absolute truth, says organizing director Ruth Schultz. They help workers articulate what they believe they're owed, and attempt to reach a settlement if an employer disputes a claim.

Sometimes they'll dispatch a public protest. But usually the mere prospect of a dispute going public is enough to make employers treat workers seriously, Schultz

Workers prefer this to protracted investigations. But every now and then, there's no other option.

Last summer, 38-year-old Yeovani Castro Romero, a roofer from El Salvador, found himself working on a \$400,000 house in Maple Grove. He'd been given a job hanging sheetrock by a man he knew from various remodeling projects, Douglas Maroto Sanchez, owner of Martinez Construction.

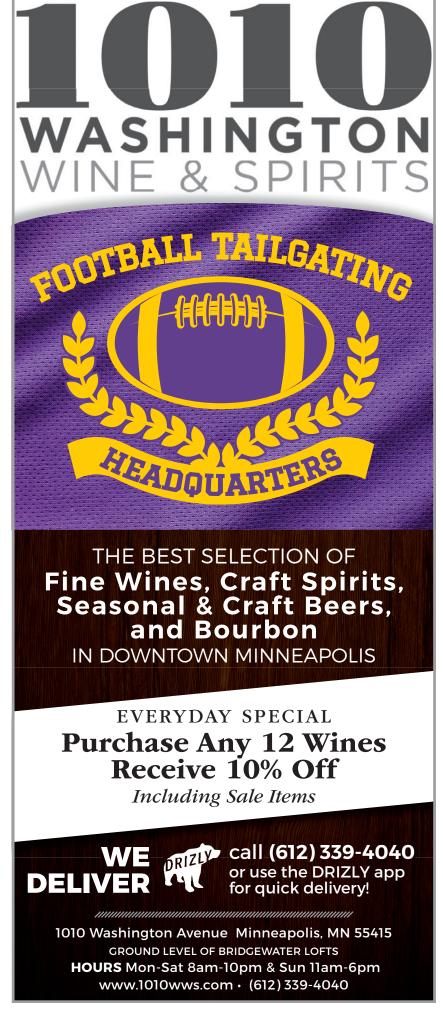
When he was finished, Maroto Sanchez offered more work installing doors and painting walls. In hindsight, Castro Romero says, his fatal mistake was never getting anything in writing.

The boss kept adding to the agreed upon tasks, he says, withholding payment until he'd finished the bathroom and installed vents, carpet, and guardrails. There were days he worked from 8 a.m. to midnight, but Maroto Sanchez insisted he worked too slowly, calling him malignant names like "Hijueputa"—son of a bitch.

Castro Romero brought in three more men to help complete the remodel. His wife had just given birth. He couldn't afford to lose his payday after all the time he'd put in.

On July 10, after Castro Romero had worked close to a month, he and Maroto Sanchez again argued over the pace of the project. It was 3 p.m., and Castro Romero hadn't eaten all day. He felt misused and energy-deprived. Yet Maroto Sanchez insisted he complete the day's work before leaving for food.

The men stood close. A screaming match ensued. Castro Romero says that as Maroto Sanchez, head and shoulders taller, jabbed a finger in his chest, he quit on the spot and demanded his money.





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He claims Maroto Sanchez wrapped his hands around his neck, picked him up off the ground, and threw him back down.

Castro Romero dialed 911. A co-worker who'd snapped photos of the assault corroborated everything. Maroto Sanchez admitted "losing his cool." He was cited for fifth-degree assault and fined \$800. His attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

Castro Romero so feared retaliation that when CTUL offered to help him sue for the lost wages, he never called back. "Sometimes we lose so much money, it's like a sport," he jokes.

The Economic Policy Institute, a D.C. think tank, estimates that more money is stolen through wage theft in America than through bank robberies, gas station holdups, auto theft, and muggings combined. Yet there aren't many cops on the corporate crime beat, says University of Minnesota Professor Aaron Sojourner.

About 135,000 people are employed in Minnesota's construction industry, almost as many as the summer before the Great Recession. Yet the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has but nine agents working on wage theft, with four more investigating cases where employers attempt to save costs by misrepresenting workers as independent contractors. They can only levy fines, not conduct criminal investigations.

Meanwhile, the Department of Commerce probes workers comp fraud. The splitting of duties leads to separate investigations that, if viewed in totality, could amount to labor trafficking.

Over the last decade, the Department of Labor twiced fined Ricardo Batres for misclassifying workers, for a total of \$15,000. Yet he was allowed to keep his license until after he was criminally charged in September.

"It's not just a matter of one worker calling a hotline or something," Sojourner says. "It takes a lawyer to sit down and do depositions, collect evidence, put it all together in a strong case that's presented to the enforcement agency so they believe it's credible, widespread, and egregious enough to merit the use of their very limited resources.

"The small-scale operators can really fly under the radar for a long time."

IV. TIGHTROPE TO FREEDOM

or seven withering months, Yimer Iriarte lay in jail with what he later learned was a broken back. He says his medical care amounted to an ice pack.

Iriarte wasn't eligible for bond because he'd applied for asylum at 16, then disappeared. That's not uncommon for kids who arrive alone in the U.S., says his attorney, Michele Garnett McKenzie of Advocates for Human Rights.

"You don't have papers. You can't contact family easily to get witness statements. You

may not have any documented evidence because the persecutor may not have written a note saying, 'Here, I'm persecuting you on account of this reason.' It's all very difficult to do and it's all the asylum seeker's job to do it."

So kids like Iriarte, seeking a chance to work, fade off to do just that. Once initiated into the underground economy, he thought he'd found a friend in Batres, a professed Christian who purported to teach and shelter him.

Even in jail, Iriarte kept faith. He believed the boss had a lawyer working for him on the outside, and when organizers from CTUL asked to hear his story, he lied to protect Batres.

"Everything was thanks to my co-worker Adalid [Zavala Lopez]," Iriarte says now. "He told me it was time I woke up and stopped covering for him."

Finally the two men decided to help investigators—the most elusive ingredient in prosecuting traffickers, says Freeman.

The county attorney's office originally hoped to punch higher up the contractor chain, but Freeman didn't feel there was hard evidence—written or recorded missives—of an intentional conspiracy. Still, there's deterrent value in embarrassing the companies responsible, even if they can't be found legally culpable.

Says Freeman: "If I were a general contractor right now, I'm looking at all my subs—and the subs to the subs—and saying, 'Make sure your subs aren't like this. We don't need the bad publicity. We don't need the hassles.""

Initially, there were fears that key witnesses would be deported before the case could lift off. One option was to get them in line for the U visa—a protective status for crime victims who collaborate with police to catch violent offenders. It opens a path to permanent residency and potential citizenship.

Yet only 10,000 are issued each year. As applicants shuffle through an 11-year waiting list, they can be deported at any time.

That leaves the T visa, which is narrowly tailored for victims of "severe trafficking."

Attorney Jesus Torres Garza, who represents Zavala Lopez, says the Department of Homeland Security has granted his client a reprieve from deportation until the case is adjudicated. Given the T visa could be issued in a matter of months, and it could be more than a year before Batres stands trial, Torres Garza is confident his client will be able to remain in America.

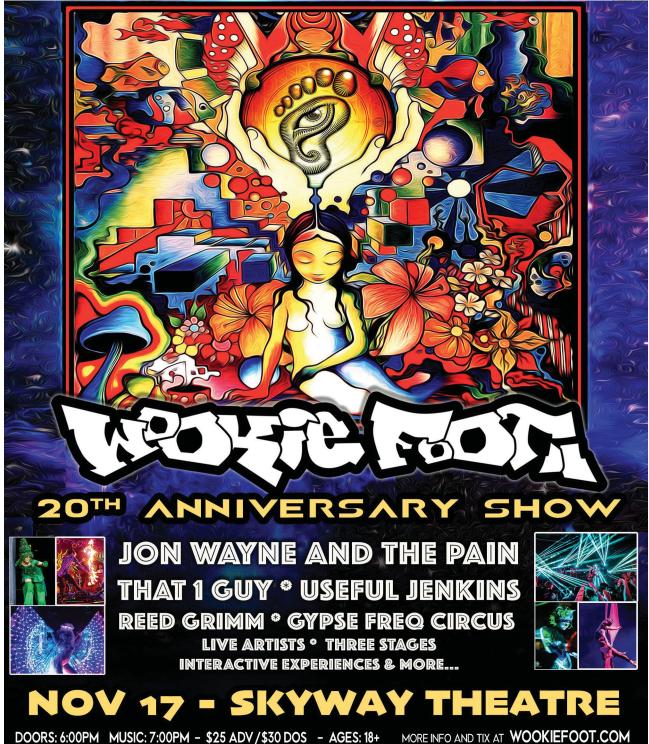
Iriarte, who'd spent the last five years of his life traversing the country without being able to enjoy its beauty, hopes he will as well.

"In this industry a lot of us are victims," he says. "And, truthfully, I think that I would still like to be someone in this life, and blaze a path for new generations. I want them to understand that we're not animals."











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FOOD & DRINK NEWSLETTER

CITYPAGES.COM/NEWSLETTERS



BY THERESA J. BECKHUSEN

f you're a Twin Cities vegan, you know J. Selby's and Evan's Organic Eatery and Eureka Compass and Herbivorous Butcher-and yeah, they're all great.

But if you're a Twin Cities vegan-or if vou just want to eat fewer animal products your options are wider than vegan-specific restaurants. Here are few places to go for a vegan-friendly experience where you can still find other stuff on the menu.

EVEREST ON GRAND

This cozy St. Paul gem specializes in Indian, Nepali, and North Indian cuisines, and a hefty portion of the menu is dedicated to vegan dishes of all kinds. Chow down on the tofu or veggie pakoras to start off your meal, and don't forget to order some vegetable momos, perfect little dumplings you'll want to eat forever. Almost all the vegetable curries are vegan, so you have lots of decisions to make. Eggplant curry or baby spinach and tofu? Add some vegan roti to round things out. 1278 Grand Ave., St. Paul; 651-696-1666

FUNKY GRITS

This popular new soul food spot comes with all the trimmings you'd expect-and then some. There's pulled pork and walleye cakes and Carolina Gold rice and sweet potatoes and, naturally, a wide array of grits. But you can also tuck into some tasty vegan dishes here, like the Hoppin' John burger, which is made from that beautiful Carolina Gold rice and red peas and topped with vegan curry aioli, Bibb lettuce, and crispy shallots. Get some greens on the side, or, if you're looking for something

PLANTS PLUS

13 of the best places to eat vegan (that aren't vegan restaurants)



Pizza Nea makes it easy to make it vegan.

more vegetable-forward, nab one of the vegan salads. 805 E. 38th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4978

THE SHERIDAN ROOM

A chicken dinner special at the Sheridan Room isn't complete without the vegan fried "chicken" special, courtesy of the ubiquitous Herbivorous Butcher. But the Sheridan Room doesn't stop there. Order a VLT with vegan bacon, vegan mayo, tomato, and lettuce or the vegan pastrami sandwich. Stopping by for brunch? All of their scrambles can be made vegan. 337 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-886-1111

TONGUE IN CHEEK

Tongue in Cheek's menu is on the meaty side. (When the restaurant name includes two body parts, you know what you're in for.) But they also whip up a rotating vegan $special-the\,vegasm-and\,many\,items\,can$ be made animal-free. If you're there for brunch-served Tuesday through Sunday, by the way-try the vegan hash or the vegan ramen. 989 Payne Ave., St. Paul; 651-888-6148

FOXY FALAFEL

Who wouldn't want to eat at a restaurant with this name? Their falafel is foxy-and vegan, all four kinds of it. So is a good chunk of the menu, so you can have yourself quite a feast. Choose a format—sandwich, platter, bowl, or salad-and build your meal from there. Drizzle some spicy harissa over everything, and throw in some stuffed grape leaves and pickles and baba ghanoush. 791 Raymond Ave., St. Paul; 651-888-2255

MILKJAM CREAMERY

Milkjam has vegans and lactose-intolerants with a sweet tooth covered, especially now that they've opened a second location in the former Dave's Popcorn in south Minneapolis. Get your mitts on some Hibiscus Lemonade Italian ice or try the delightfully goth Black Magic ice cream. PB Vs. Everybody? Vegan. Toasted Coconut? Vegan. Remember: You're an adult, and you can get a whole flight of ice cream if you want to. Multiple locations; 612-424-4668

VIVA MEXICO TAQUERIA

Tucked into the back of a convenience store, Viva Mexico gives you plenty of taco options and accommodates vegetarians and vegans with ease. Your food is made to order, meaning your tacos (or enchiladas, or burritos, or tortas, or, or, or...) are hot, fresh, and ready to be happily devoured. Oh, hey, you've got a bit of salsa on your chin. 2900 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis; 612-483-8052

RAMEN KAZAMA

Winter is coming. (Yes, you can say that about 94 percent of the time in Minnesota.)







The final lineup is announced! Drum roll please...

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CHEF MATT LEVERTY

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Spring Street Tavern

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FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar

Who will claim the prize? Purchase your ticket to find out! ironfork.citypages.com

Tickets will be available online until NOON on day of event (11/8/18). Limited tickets will be available at the door.































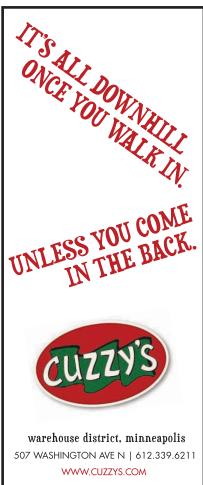












FOOD

When the wind whips through your clothes, find warmth and comfort and joy and brief freedom from darkness in a bowl of ramen. Ramen Kazama makes vegan broth and offers eggless noodles, and if soup isn't your thing, order the veggie curry don. Round out your meal with some edamame and pirikara kyuri, a spicy cucumber salad. Multiple locations, 612-353-6160

MOTO-I

Sink into a booth at Moto-i and relax: They've got the vegan front covered. Kick things off with the tofu lettuce wraps, the pickle jar, or the tofu buns. Want to dive right into something substantial? Order the yakiudon with tofu or mock duck, one of the vegetarian ramens sans eggs, or the Japanese fried rice. 2940 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-821-6262

ZAKIA DELI

This Lebanese deli has a stable of vegan dishes and rotating daily specials, some of which are vegan, too. Sandwich options abound with falafel, mjadra (a lentil-andrice preparation), and burghul, and you should for sure try the spinach pie. The deli case, meanwhile, is so bursting with vegan sides that you could compose a smallplates meal out of those alone. We think some hummus, grape leaves, salad, and baba ghanouj sounds pretty perfect. 2412 Kennedy St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-379-0288

BANGKOK THAI DELI

Vegetables, tofu, and mock duck for all! Bangkok Thai Deli is happy to accommodate vegan tastes upon request, and that's if you can't find something to eat in their already robust selections of meatless entrees. Get some veggie-heavy curry, the Stir-Fried Mango Delight, or the coconut milk soup. *333 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-224-4300*

PIZZA NEA

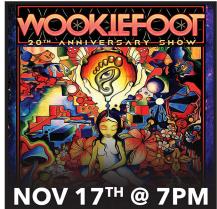
"Make it vegan!" Pizza Nea's menu proclaims. And you might as well: Any of their pizzas can be vegan-ized. Go ahead and sub in or add some Herbivorous Butcher "meats." It's a couple extra bucks, but the pizza's so tasty, you might not even mind. That Melanzana pie with eggplant and peppers isn't going to eat itself. 306 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-331-9298

MINNESOTA NICE CREAM

This shop gives vegan ice cream some extra sparkle with edible glitter. Minnesota Nice Cream keeps the flavor options streamlined so you can focus on the toppings, many of which are also vegan (we're looking at you, cookie dough). Of four recent flavors, two were vegan. We find pumpkin spice and black cocoa more than satisfactory. 807 Broadway St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-259-7053

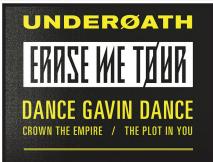




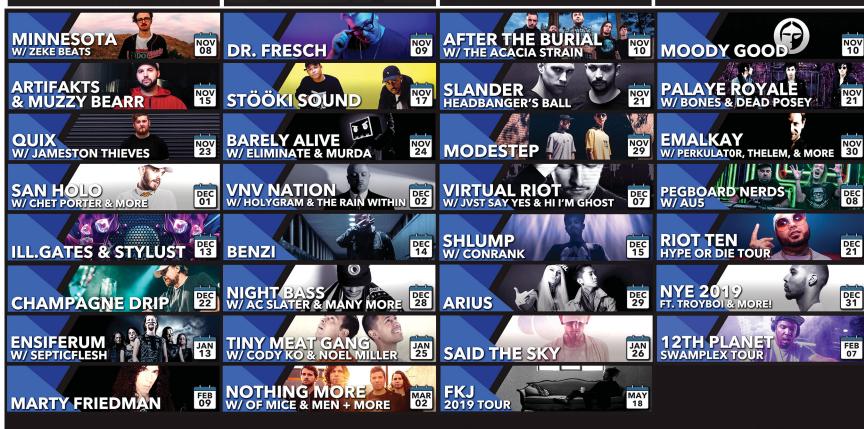








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FRIDAY Party at the Dow Arts Building P. 23

SATURDAY Beer and vintage at Modist P. 23

TUESDAY Guthrie's A Christmas Carol returns P. 25

WEDNESDAY 11.7

BOOKS **ERIN GIBSON**

MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS Writer Erin Gibson takes on the patriarchy with comedy in her new book, Feminasty, a collection of essays on the many facets of oppression against women, including laws, economic power, societal expectations, and sexist language. Her essay on the word "girl," for example, is a hilarious takedown of the incessant popularity of calling grown women girls. Gibson has a sharp, witty way of putting things, and isn't afraid to make an outrageous joke, which is why you should head on over to Magers & Quinn to hear her read from her book. While the fight is long and hard, we gotta laugh every once in a while, too. 7 p.m. Free. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. —SHEILA REGAN

THEATER THE BOOK OF MORMON

ORPHEUM THEATRE

The Book of Mormon, written by South Park co-creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker, and composed with Avenue Q's co-Robert Lopez, conveys no abject meanness. It follows the farcical odyssey of two naive Mormon missionaries who hope to convert a village of Ugandans. Zealous to spread the word (and blinded by spiritual ethnocentrism), the two soon find their heavenly pitch countered by such real-life horrors as famine, disease, and a tyrannical warlord. Though absurdly misguided, the Mormon missionaries are depicted as genuinely benevolent, a distinction that allows the musical to simultaneously cheer and lampoon their efforts. This approach is perhaps best emphasized by the collection of irresistibly tuneful songs that stand among the more memorable Broadway compositions of the last decade. This touring production has set out to proselytize for the eternal



spirit of compassion, humanity, and show-stopping musical numbers. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 6:25 p.m. Sundays. \$29-\$135. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. Through November 18 - BRAD RICHASON

THURSDAY 11.8

DANCE

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

NORTHROP

Local ballet lovers often feel starved for ballets by the incomparable George Balanchine, especially performances set to live music. They and everyone else will get both when the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra joins the feisty Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre for a concert of three works to music by Mozart. Balanchine's "Divertimento No. 15," a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ▶

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CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ▶

heady combo of neoclassical idealism and sensual gaiety, is the kind of sublime ballet that critics call "celestial" and "maiestic." By contrast, two ballets by Czech choreographer Jirí Kylián present quite a different worldview. Kylián has said, "Our bodies are 275 hinges or joints, so the combination of what you can do with them is endless." His "Petite Mort" integrates athletic men wielding fencing foils, women defiantly stepping out of baroque dresses, and elegant mating dances. His lively "Sechs Tänze," set to Mozart's "Six German Dances," allies the sophisticated with the absurd, pompous powdered wigs with sly wit. Operatic intensity abounds. 7:30 p.m. \$21-\$46. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. -LINDA SHAPIRO

FOOD CITY PAGES IRON FORK 2018

INTERNATIONAL MARKET SQUARE Every year, City Pages hosts an epic food sampling event where attendees can try tasty eats from a variety of establishments. As guests snack, top chefs compete live for the Iron Fork. This time they'll whip up something brunchthemed using a secret ingredient to be announced at the event. Selections will be judged, and a winner will be crowned. Mixologists will also vie for top honors in a brunch-themed cocktail competition. Meanwhile, folks can sample dishes from establishments including Sea Salt Eatery, Boca Chica, La Familia Tapatia, Nautical Bowls, and Rusty Taco. Some will be brunch-themed; others could be eaten at brunch or any other hour. Wine, beer, and cocktail samples will be served (Fair State will be offering brew), or order a full drink from one of the cash bars. Those who go VIP will score an early admission time, access to exclusive samples, and third-floor seating. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit Second Harvest Heartland. Find tickets and more info at ironfork.citypages.com. 21+. 7 to 10 p.m.; 6 p.m. VIP. \$30; \$45 VIP. 275 Market St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6250. - JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FESTIVAL/FILM CINE LATINO

ST. ANTHONY MAIN THEATRE

This weekend marks the eighth-annual Cine Latino, a festival organized by the MSP Film Society showcasing Spanish- and Portuguese-language works. Things kick off with *Roma*, Alfonso Cuarón's first release since 2013's *Gravity*, one already generating Oscar buzz. The deeply personal film



ARMOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

follows a housekeeper who works for a middle-class family in Roma, Mexico City, during the '70s. Other selections include The Heiresses, about a shut-in who experiences a social and sexual awakening when she starts driving a group of gossipy elderly women to bridge club; Champions, which follows a man in a downward spiral who finds redemption while coaching a basketball team for special-needs adults; and Giant, which is based on a true story and examines the relationship between brothers who seek fame and fortune when one of them develops gigantism. For a complete list of showtimes and films, visit mspfilm.org. \$11; \$25 opening night; ticket packages range from \$20-\$60.115 SE Main St., Minneapolis; 612-331-4724. Through Sunday -JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY ROBERT KELLY

ACME COMEDY CO.

"I feel bad for everyone in a riot, but I really feel bad for the fat riot cop," comedian Robert Kelly tells an audience. "He was just home chilling and he gets a call, 'There's a riot. Get your riot gear on and be downtown in 20 minutes.' He's like, 'I haven't worn that stuff in, like, nine years. I'm going to get fired. I wore it for Halloween three years ago. Do I still have it?" After that bit, Kelly assures audience, "You've never noticed the fat riot cop before, but you're going to now. He looks like a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade." Kelly is feeling his age too, though. "In your 20s, time doesn't matter," he says. "You think, 'I'm going to live forever, my hair is always going to be hair.' I have 30 summers left. That's a real number. I don't have time for crappy people in my life." That includes friends with mediocre stories. "I have one friend

who loves to tell stories. He thinks they're awesome, because in the middle he says, 'true story.' Stop saying, 'true story,' you're not a Navy SEAL." 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

FRIDAY 11.9

ART/FESTIVAL DO THE DOW

DOW ARTISTS BUILDING

Artists from the Dow Artist Buildingincluding painters, sculptors, woodworkers, metalworkers, ceramic artists, muralists, screen printers, and installation artists—will be showing off the fruits of their labor at the annual Do the Dow event in St. Paul. There will also be drummers, poets, and musicians performing over the course of the twoday event, and eats from the Twin Grill food truck. Stop in to see Erik Pearson's giant pirate sculptures, Carolyn Brunelle's moody abstract paintings, Karen Searle's intricate textile pieces, and much more. 6 to 10 p.m. Friday; noon to 8 p.m. Saturday. Free. 2242 University Ave. W., St. Paul.

Through Saturday —SHEILA REGAN

SATURDAY 11.10

DANCE

MATHEW JANCZEWSKI'S ARENA DANCES: HOLD MY HAND

FITZGERALD THEATER

Hope may seem hard to find in these days of escalating political rhetoric, with outcomes of hate, violence, and death. Nonetheless, intrepid artists feel they need to try—to our benefit. ARENA Dances, with choreography by founder Mathew Janczewski, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ▶





CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ▶

celebrating its 23rd year with a onenight concert created to generate the hope and sense of community we really can't get enough of. Four pieces are on the program, one of which was inspired by Sophie Chou's sonification of gun violence statistics. The score is performed live by MPLS (imPulse) choir with guest soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw; the dancers will be joined by local high school students. 7:30 p.m. \$17.50-\$26.50. 10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul; 651-290-1200. —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

OPERA

SILENT NIGHT

ORDWAY THEATER

Seven years ago, the Minnesota Opera debuted *Silent Night*. This operatic retelling of the famous Christmas Truce of 1914 set to music the true story of WWI soldiers who left their entrenched positions to meet on neutral ground and share a brief moment of mutual peace on the battlefront one Christmas night. This all-new work would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize and be restaged in opera houses all over the country. Now, over 100 years since this stirring example of humanity under the direst of circumstances, *Silent Night* returns to the Ordway where it premiered for



ICHAL DANIEL

a series of shows from original director Eric Simonson. Here in 2018, couldn't we all use a moment's peace? 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Tuesday, Thursday; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$25-\$200. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 612-333-6669. **Through**

November 18 - BRYAN MILLER

COMEDY BRIAN REGAN

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

It's Brian Regan against the world, or at least that's how it seems when he's onstage. "Years ago, I remember talking to my mom," he says by phone from his home in Las Vegas. "I think she was talking about my emergency room bit." One of his most popular, it's the story of how he once had to go to the emergency room when he was having stomach pains and all of the obstacles to getting treatment, from having to drive himself there to convincing hospital staff that his situation was serious. "My mom was very complimentary, saying, 'It was such a great routine that you got out of such a bad experience," he recalls, "and she was suggesting that maybe if I had more bad experiences, I could create even more bits like that. I don't want comedy that bad. I don't want to live a miserable life to make great comedy, I'd rather live a wonderful life and have no comedy." Still, he has to be aware of situations in a way that's different from most people. "As you go through life, you just tend to not only experience things normally but comedically if they happen to be funny," he says. "I don't know that I'm actively looking for funny things when I'm out and about, usually not. I just see something, experience something, or read something, and go, 'Hey, that's funny.' It can end up being a bit." 8 p.m. \$42.50-\$67.50. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. - P.F. wilson



ART/GALLERY

ALEX M. PETERSEN: IN THE FUTURE WE'LL ALL BE HAPPY

SOO VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Despite what the show's title implies, the future that Alex M. Petersen hypothesizes is fairly dystopian. In graphite drawings and acrylic paintings, he considers a post-human world where the inhabitants have inherited our waste and the damage we've done to the environment. These mural-sized installations examine queer voices and those on the fringe, while featuring Minnesota flora and fauna, and speculative technology. "Without Us," a show featuring work by Sophia Heymans, also examines a world after we're gone. See both exhibitions at the opening reception on Saturday, November 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 2909 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-2263. Through December 29 - JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FASHION

MINNEAPOLIS VINTAGE MARKET

MODIST BREWING COMPANY

This Saturday, the Minneapolis Vintage Market returns to Modist Brewing for an afternoon of beer and shopping. Twenty different vendors will be selling their



COURTESY OF NOISY EYE VINTAGE

wares at this traveling pop-up shop. Check out colorful costume jewelry, collectible vinyl from eras past, classic home goods, and retro clothing. Even better? You

can shop while enjoying beer, which Modest has plenty of on tap. Noon to 5 p.m. Free. 505 N. Third St., Minneapolis; 612-454-0258. **–JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

TUESDAY 11.13

THEATER A CHRISTMAS CAROL

GUTHRIE THEATER

The enduring popularity of the Guthrie Theater's A Christmas Carol, now approaching its 45th year, can be largely attributed to a willingness to continually rework the show in surprising new ways without compromising the core narrative that drives Charles Dickens' redemption tale. Audiences can expect to follow the Yuletide travails of quintessential miser Ebenezer Scrooge as he faces a spiritual intervention. Returning director Lauren Keating will distill full poignancy from Crispin Whittell's streamlined script, a dynamic adaptation widely lauded for putting the focus squarely on Scrooge as his ruthless greed is relinquished in the rediscovery of his humanity. For the plum role of Scrooge, the Guthrie is fortunate to be bringing back the ever-charismatic Nathaniel Fuller. Switching things up, select performances will feature an alternate take on Scrooge, courtesy of the eminently talented Charity Jones. The show is in previews through November 21. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 1 p.m. Sundays. \$29-\$134. 818 S. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-377-2224. Through

December 29 -BRAD RICHASON

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Tom Stewart

Morgan Grayce Willow Diane Wood

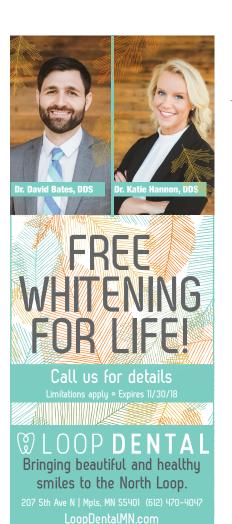
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MID-GRADE

Mid90s is a mediocre evocation of a not-so-distant era



TOBIN YELLAND

BY BRYAN MILLER

ith a title as chronologically specific as *Mid90s*, you might reasonably assume actor Jonah Hill's directorial debut is a gauzy bit of nostalgia for people just barely old enough to be nostalgic about anything. This mild, paint-by-numbers coming-of-age tale does turn out to be more than a wistful recollection of eraspecific bands and brands—just not that much more.

In the opening scene, the camera pans across a child's bedroom to fetishize totems from a time when Coolio ruled the earth: a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles bedspread, a Hulk Hogan Wrestling Buddies pillow, stacks of slate-gray Super Nintendo cartridges.

Thankfully Hill shakes loose of this impulse soon enough to focus on the adolescent drama of Stevie (Sunny Suljic), a 13-year-old teetering on the precipice between shaggy-haired moppet and budding teen delinquent. We meet him on the cusp of one of those major child-hood identity shifts when a kid suddenly renounces his former loves in favor of a new life-defining obsession.

In Sunny's case, it's skateboarding. He hangs out at a skate shop in the hopes of joining the boys who use it as a de facto clubhouse: pro-level leader Ray (Na-kel Smith), his goofball cohort Fuckshit (Olan Prenatt), the younger Ruben (Gio Galicia), and a dimwitted poor kid they call Fourth Grade (Ryder McLaughlin), who silently records their escapades on his handheld camera.

Mid90s successfully evokes the giddy thrill of joining a subculture, and the suddenness with which teenage identity can shift—much to the bemusement of Sunny's semi-absentee single mother (Katherine Waterston).

But while first-time writer and director Hill is suitably acquainted with preinternet So Cal skate culture, the film's emotional beats seem not drawn from life, but ordered from a catalog of coming-ofage-movie tropes. It lacks the grimy little details that confer credibility.

Stevie goes to teenage parties where kids casually drink in between drama-free hookups and nobody pukes. Fourth Grade is supposed to be both dumb and poor, yet not only does he turn out to have some secret Gumpian insight but also mysteriously has access to endless supplies of videotape and editing equipment.

Skate videos were indeed a prominent part of that culture, but Fourth Grade's incessant toting of the camera feels like a cliché straight out of the first wave of *Reality Bites*-adjacent slacker youth movies, with their self-aware video confessionals. This is woefully confirmed in the movie's treacly, pat conclusion.

Mid90s works best as an exploration of a fractured family dynamic. Stevie's fraught relationship with his aggressive loner older brother, Ian (Lucas Hedges), is the film's most compelling conflict. Hedges' character doesn't entirely make sense either—a freakout near the end of the movie suggests repressed sexuality may be the skeleton key to his inscrutable hostility—but he's such a tremendous actor he commands the viewer's full attention.

It's hard not to wish Hill had let his camera wander past the Ninja Turtle

MID90S

directed by Jonah Hill now open, area theaters bedsheets and further down the hall to spend more time with Ian, rather than running the lik-

able Suljic through an obstacle course of familiar indie-movie hoops in order to recreate the kind of childhood that only exists onscreen.



THE 4 SEASONS

Hotel employees change with the times



ANNIE GALLOWAY

BY JAY GABLER

he Moving Company found inspiration for their new piece in Anton Chekhov, specifically the way his plays tap "an undercurrent of profound societal change about to burst." As the company opened The 4 Seasons on the Lab Theater stage on the weekend before midterm elections, there was no doubt that artists and audiences alike were feeling the tug of such a current.

Much analysis since the 2016 election has focused on the anxieties of white working-class men who threw themselves behind Donald Trump to allay their fears of being displaced in an increasingly pluralistic society. The 4 Seasons considers the concerns of the rest of America, who see that our dedication to an abstract but noble idea-democracy-is being replaced by an increasingly concrete commitment to white supremacist patriarchy.

Not that the play's characters ever put it quite so explicitly. On its surface, The 4 Seasons follows a year in the lives of three unnamed hotel cleaning workers, played by Heidi Bakke, Joy Dolo, and Steven Epp. Dominique Serrand directs the show, which he conceived with Epp and Nathan Keepers.

To get a sense of The 4 Seasons, imagine if My Dinner with Andre focused not on a pair of restaurant diners, but on a trio of dishwashers in the kitchen. As Epp, Dolo, and Bakke go about their daily roundsvacuuming, making beds, unclogging

THE 4 SEASONS

The Lab Theater 700 N. First St., Minneapolis Through December 2: 612-333-7977

drains—they share their hopes and fears. Mostly their fears.

While the characters share a clear empathy, they also seem to be only half-listening to each other. One soliloguy leads to another. responding thematically rather than directly. If you love the existential side of Chekhov but hate the way his characters fight like kids at the dinner table, this might be your jam.

In keeping with the interior setting, physical evidence of the passing months is minimal. Snow blows in through a door; Epp rakes a few leaves off the lawn that serves as a bedroom carpet.

There's also a lighthearted episode in a simulated swimming pool that provides welcome respite from the piece's bleak mood, but don't expect the kind of physical invention that characterized the company's recent Speechless. This is a play about language and its limits.

These are three commanding artists, but in a piece about powerlessness, all are understated. Dolo provides the play's most gripping moments, and it's not coincidental that those moments come when she speaks about those who aren't being spoken for amid all of this anxious verbiage. At one point she screams into a toilet, the kind of cathartic moment these characters are typically denied.









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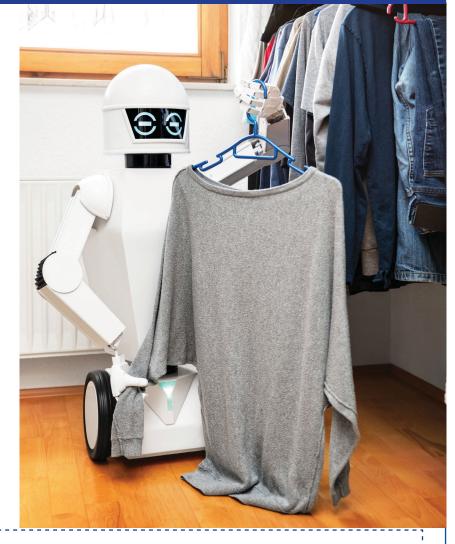
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STREET Style

ART ATTACK A mega art sale at the Northrup King Building on November 4. BY AMY GEE









CELINA KANE

28. MILLINER

What are you wearing?

Jen Gotch x Iconery necklace, Megan Huntz sweatshirt, Kokoon skirt, Celina Kane turban and velvet scrunchie, Ziera shoes, Ted Muehling earrings, Annika Fine rings.

Describe your style:

Mixing vintage and contemporary pieces to have a timeless look with an edge.

Where do you get style inspiration?

I love fine fabrics. I'm pretty eclectic. I don't really have a uniform. I get style inspiration from all sorts of things, and it allows me to mix it up.

BRITTANY BROWNELL

30. CHIROPRACTOR

What are you wearing?

Vintage Patagonia coat; Michael Kors pants; thrifted shoes, bag, and shirt.

Describe your style:

Vintage-inspired pieces and unique finds.

Where do you get style inspiration?

The '70s and random people on the street.

Best style tip for winter:

Lots of layers and big furry coats.

LAURA ROOS

29. OWNER OF MINNY AND PAUL

What are you wearing?

Guess overalls from Tandem Vintage, Nike shoes, socks from Parc, shirt from Target, jacket from Anthropologie, Perennial earrings, Ashley Mary pin, Jen Collins tiger pin.

Describe your style:

Comfortable because I'm always moving around, but also with some sort of flair and edge. I like to mix patterns and colors.

Best style tip for winter:

Invest in a really great winter boot that you can wear at the office but also keeps you warm when you're shoveling snow.

TAYLOR MERTZ

32. NURSE-MIDWIFE

What are you wearing?

Paloma Wool sweater, Madewell jeans, No. 6 clogs, Britta Kauppila earrings.

Describe your style:

Simple pieces meant to last.

Where do you get style inspiration? Instagram feeds focused on capsule closets.

Best style tip for winter:

Layers, layers, layers. There's a Norwegian phrase: "There's no bad weather, only bad clothes."

DOING IT THEMSELVES

Elle PF's daring feminist orchestral rock blossoms on She Wrote It



ETER JAMUS

BY JARED GOYETTE

anelle "LaBiche" Johnson is in a jam.

The leader of the orchestral synth-rock band Elle PF is trying to figure out how to fit a string quartet and two backup singers into the crowded, carpeted northeast Minneapolis basement where her three bandmates and a drum kit are already vying for space with two house dogs—Ashley, a hyperactive border collie mix, and Zephyr, a big white lumbering Pyrenees.

"We can set it up over here," LaBiche says, pointing to a side room. "Maybe I'll just wake up early and do it."

"We can help," says Jenessa LaSota, who plays bass and sings harmony in the group. "Ranelle, we're a DIY band, not a Do It All Yourself Band."

LaBiche could probably use that reminder. She's not just Elle PF's lead singer—she's also the band's producer, keyboardist, and songwriter. She even plays all the strings on their recordings. She's your classic

introverted musician: charismatic on stage with a mic in her hand, shy in person. Yet even offstage she carries herself with quiet intensity. When she does speak, she does so precisely and can command a room.

Now, though, her bandmates laugh, and she joins them. She relents: Yes, they can help. In a week, the group—LaBiche, LaSota, guitarist Tyler Phelps, and drummer John Acarregui—will perform at the Cedar Cultural Center to celebrate the release show of their debut album, *She Wrote It*.

LaBiche, who grew up in Willmar and Spicer, is hardly new to the Minneapolis music scene. Her previous projects include Tiger Vs. and Bae Tigre, and some common characteristics run through all her work—the way she builds layers, her knack for catchy keyboard lines, her ornate production style. These all contributed to the airy, dreamlike atmosphere of the 2015 Bae Tigre album, *Perennial Bygones*.

But her style has evolved. LaBiche started out as a bedroom producer, but as her band lineup changed (with only LaSota a constant presence), she's learned how to fit more people in the room. She still writes the songs, but then the band will improv around them in practice. "We'll jam in the same key until something sticks and her face lights up," LaSota explains.

LaBiche sees Elle PF as "the evolution of a solo project into a live project."

She adds, "I wanted to recreate the songs that are written, write new songs and record them with the live band because it's a totally different feel with slightly different arrangements."

The result is a richer, darker, more rockdriven sound, with a fuller string section and live drums for funkier beats.

"The core of a lot of the music is the driving rhythm section," says Acarregui. "So even with all the textures and lush orchestra, the grove is the bedrock. That's why, hopefully, some of the songs make you want to move."

By the time the Elle PF set gets going around 10 p.m., the crowd at the Cedar has started to fill out. LaBiche has the look of a jazz singer at a speakeasy, with a black 1920s-style flapper dress and matching lace gloves. The lights dim.

The show, like the album, begins with a snapping staccato beat, like a military drummer from 1776. We're going to war.

This is "Perennial Bygones," a revamped Bae Tigre song, and like much of LaBiche's work, it's a slow build.

A menacing, otherworldly bass wobble hits. It repeats four times, then LaBiche and LaSota start a delicate, steady, dissonant vocal harmony on "ooh." Repeat again and Phelps adds a guitar riff. Repeat, build, and

ELLE PF

Kitty Cat Klub, Minneapolis Saturday, November 10 Acarregui layers in another rhythm. Repeat. LaBi-

che hits a percussive chord as the string quartet makes its entrance with a swelling melody. Repeat.

We're 50 seconds in. The crowd is transfixed.

The band layers its sound with a machinelike precision that suggests electronic music. Another thing that gives them an electronic vibe: LaBiche writes transitions between the songs, so they flow seamlessly from one into the next. This also adds to the theat-



The final lineup is announced! Drum roll please...

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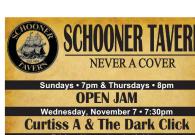












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MUSIC

ricality of Elle PF shows-with LaBiche the conductor behind the keyboards, not a moment is wasted.

The transitions also have another benefit for LaBiche. "I wanted to make the show more interesting," she says. "Less space, less awkward silence. Doing the transitions is definitely about elevating the performance. Also, so I don't have to talk."

It makes sense that LaBiche writes daring, complex music with the sensibility of a classical composer: She played violin in orchestras throughout her youth. She's borrowed her tendency to use slow builds and loops from the minimalist composer Steve Reich, she says, and her lush melodies, from the romantic tradition and from impressionists like Claude Debussy.

But her rock theatricality has other origins. "I liked listening to emo music and metal, and my favorite band was Metallica," she says, remembering her high school years. "I had an Iced Earth T-shirt."

While it's easy to just get lost in the music, Elle PF's work is also unmistakably political and fiercely feminist. The lyrics to "Slumber" target white liberals who skirt social responsibility while patting themselves on the back. "We know and we claim to be 'woken,' tucked in so safely in our own beds as if we did our best," LaBiche sings to a tune that sounds like a twisted children's lullaby. After the closing couplet, a call and response between LaSota and LaBiche that's delivered with the crisp diction of a church choir-"Olly olly olly oxen free/Molotov cocktail on me!"-we hear distant chants from a protest and fragments of speeches.

These are sounds LaBiche recorded at a protest at Minneapolis' Fourth Police Precinct after officers killed Jamar Clark in 2015. As the sample plays to a backdrop of subtle ambient touches-LaSota with a jazzy bass line, Acarregui tapping the cymbal, Phelps with a psychedelic guitar riff—the song's cutting irony gives way to something more optimistic, driven by the voices of Black Lives Matter. Where there was thinly veiled despair and alienation, there is now a touch of hope and a hint of togetherness.

"I remember it being extremely emotional and just a lot of different kinds of energy," LaBiche says, recalling the protest. "A lot of people in the community experiencing a lot of pain and then coming together and having that be healing and powerful."

LaBiche described the process of making She Wrote It as empowering, in that it allowed her to push her boundaries as a creator. Now she is working on booking more shows. And she's still writing.

"I've already been working on new music and bringing new music to the band and I'm just going to keep doing it because I love making music," she says. "I guess that's what you do. You just keep making stuff." @







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YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

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- Squeeze boxes? Cheap Super PAC attack
- Kissing sound
- 14 Latin lover's flower
- 15 Chop in two
- 16 Canned fruit brand
- 17 Ice cream brand
- 18 Drunk as a skunk
- 19 Tests in a tube, for short
- 20 Ignoramus
- 23 Durable wood
- 25 Ignoramus
- 26 Democrat megadonor Stever
- 27 Just ducky
- 30 Bullshitted
- Mickey of Hollywood
- Disney princess with a blonde braid
- 35 They're all true
- 39 Germ of an idea
- 40 Lifelong wrestler's affliction
- Length of time 43
- "Check your ___ at the door"
- 45 Bothers
- 46 Chill
- 48 Bruins, on scoreboards
- 49 Casino machines
- 51 In its own gravy
- Weakling's giveaway 53
- 56

- "You can count on me"
- 58 Competes
- 60 Dog biter
- 61 Band-Aid rival
- 62 Impressive panache
- 63 Marries
- 64 Gives off
- 65 Scream

Down

- "You _ a life saver"
- Make some changes to, briefly
- 3 Fills with passion
- Pageant band
- 5 Hotdogs
- Hotel staff 6
- 7 Vogue rival
- Turn away
- War's steed, in the Apocalypse
- 10 Molly, chemically
- Scrabble addict in a Stefan Fatsis book
- __ (Nicki Minaj 12 Rah BFF)
- 13 Bros
- Feedbag morsel 21
- Moody punk, or moody
- punk offshoot 23 He plays Donald on 59-
- Deane of the **Continental Congress**
- Michelle of U.S.

- women's soccer
 - 31

 - 37 Gear's tooth
 - Snake eves total 38
 - 41 Disguised, for short
 - Spanish wine 42
 - 47
 - Constructs 48
 - 50 Nail down
 - 52 "I'm taking a photo here!"

 - 55

 - along with a reaction pic

Last Week's Answer STOLI CRESTS ESC

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- Some kings and queens 29
- Tibetan spiritual leaders
- Website's feedback, say 33
- 36 Amber colored drink

- Values
- 49 Went undercover
- 51 Attorney follower
- 53 New client, so to speak
- 54 It goes round and round
- Apply plumber's putty
- Internet initialism to go
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1994, Aries pop diva Mariah Carey collaborated with an associate to write the song "All I Want for Christmas Is You." It took them 15 minutes to finish it. Since then it has generated \$60 million in royalties. I wish I could unconditionally predict that you, too, will efficiently spawn a valuable creation sometime soon. Current planetary alignments do indeed suggest that such a development is more nossible than usual. But because I tend to be conservative in my prophecies. won't guarantee anything close to the \$60 million figure. In fact, your reward may be more spiritual in nature than financial.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An interactive post at Reddit.com asked readers to write about "the most understand fault." readers to write about "the most underrated feeling of all time." One person said, "When you change the sheets on your bed. "Another extolled "the feeling that comes when you pay all your bills and you've still got money in the bank." Others said, "dancinig under the rain," "physical contact like a pat on the back when you're really touch starved," and "listening to a song for the first time and it's so good you just can't stop smilling." I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because I suspect that the next two weeks will bring you a flood of these pleasurable underrated feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer," wrote Gemini author Henry Lawson. Do you have any methods for making yourself feel like you've drunk a few beers that don't involve drinking a few beers? If not, I highly recommend that you find at least one. It will be especially important in the coming weeks for you to have a way to alter, expand, or purify your consciousness without relying on literal intoxicants or drugs. The goal: to leave your groove before it devolves

 CANCER (June 21-July 22): Study the following five failed predictions.

1. "There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom." –
Robert Millham, Nobel Laureate in Physics, 1923. 2. "This 'telephone' has to
many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication.
The device is inherently of no value to us." —Western Union internal memo,
1876. 3. "Rail travel at high speeds is not possible because passengers,
unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia." —Dionysius Lardner, scientist, 1830.

4. "Thora is no reason aurone would wear a computer in their home." —Ken 4 "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." -Ker 4. Inter is no reason anyone would want a computer in their nome. —Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977.5. "Nost Cancerlans will never overcome their tendencies toward hypersensitivity, procreastination, and fear of success." —Lanira Kentsler, astrologer, 2018. (P.S. What you do in the next 12 months could go a long way toward permanently refuting the last prediction.)

Q LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): German scientists have created cochlear implants for gerblis that have been genetically modified, enabling the creatures to "listen" to light. The researchers work is ultimately dedicated to finding ways to improve the lives of people with hearing impairments. What minding ways to minyto et news or people with intenting mipan inners. What might be the equivalent of you gaining the power to "hear light"? I understand that you might resist thinking this way. "That makes no sense," you may protest, or "There's no practical value in fantasizing about such an impossibility." But I hope you'll make the effort anyway, In my view, stretching your imagination past its limits is the healing you need most right now. I also think that doing so will turn out to be unexpectedly practical.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here's useful wisdom from the poet Rumi. Our defects are the ways that glory gets manifested," he said. "Keep looking at the bandaged place. That's where the light enters you." Playwright Harrison David Rivers interprets Rumi's words to mean, "Don't look away from your pain, don't disengage from it, because that pain is the source of your power." I think these perspectives are just what you need to meditate on, Virgo. To promote even more healing in you, I'll add a further clue from poet Anna Kamienska: "Where your pain is, there your heart lies also." (P.S. Rumi is translated by Coleman Barks; Kamienska by Clare Cavanagh.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Artist David Hockney is proud of how undemanding he is toward his friends and associates. "People tell me they open my e-mails first." he says. "because they aren't demands and you don't need to reply. They're simply for pleasure." He also enjoys giving regular small gifts. "I draw flowers every day and send them to my friends so they get fresh blooms." Hockney seems to share the perspective expressed by author Call Coduit house. Gail Godwin, who writes, "How easy it was to make people happy, when you didn't want or need anything from them." In accordance with astrological omens, Libra, I suggest you have fun employing these approaches in the

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I am not currently a wanderer or voyager or entrepreneur or swashbuckler. But at other times in my life. I have had extensive experience with those roles. So I know secrets about how and why to be a wanderer and voyager and entrepreneur and awashbuckler. And it's clear to me that in the coming weeks you could benefit in unforeseen ways from researching and embodying the roles of curious wanderer and brave voyager and savvy entrepreneur and prudent

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "The best thing one can do when it is raining is let it rain. That brilliant formulation came from poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Does it seem so obvious as to not need mentioning? Bear with me while I draw further meaning from it, and suggest you use it as an inspiring metaphor in the coming weeks. When it rains, Sagittarius, let it rain: don't waste time and emotional energy complaining about the rain. Don't rain; on t waste time and emotional energy complaining about the rain. John indulge in fruitless fantasizing about how you might stop the rain and how you'd love to stop the rain. In fact, please refrain from defining the rain as a negative event, because after all, it is perfectly natural, and is in fact crucial for making the crops grow and replenishing our water supply. (P.S. Your metaphorical "rain" will be equally useful.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Every true love and friendship is a story of unexpected transformation," writes activist and author Elif Shafak. "If we are the same person before and after we loved, that means we haven't loved enough." I bring this to your attention because you're in a phase when your close alliances should be activating healing changes in your life. If for some reason your alliances are not yet awash in the exciting emotions of redemption and reinvention, get started on instigating experimental acts of intimacy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I suspect you will be an especially arousing influence in the coming weeks. You may also be inspiring and disorienting, with unpredictable results. How many transformations will you unleash? How many expectations will you dismantle? How many creative disruptions will you induce in the midst of the daily grind?! hesitate to underestimate the messy beauty you'll stir up or the rambunctious gossip you'll provoke. In any case, I plan to be richly amused by your exploits, and I hope everyone else will be, as well. For best results, I will pray to the Goddess of Productive Fun, begging Her to ensure that the commotions and uproars you catalyze will be in service to love and kindness.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Gonzo Journalist Hunter S. Thompson wasn't always a wild and crazy writer. Early in his career he made an effort to compose respectable, measured prose. When he finally gave up on that project and decided he could "get away with" a more uninhibited style, described it as being "like falling down an elevator shaft and landing in a pool full of mermaids." I foresee a metaphorically comparable development in your

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What Ain't Broke

I'm great at short-term relationships, but not long-term ones. Am I a freak?

've been spending a lot of time lately thinking about myself and my sexuality and my romantic self. I can log on and easily find someone to fuck. I'm a bear-built top guy. There are ladies in my life who choose to share their beds with me. I can find subs to tie up and torture. (I'm kinky and bi.) What I can't find is a long-term partner. The problem is that after I fuck/ sleep with/torture someone, my brain stops seeing them as sexual and moves them into the friend category. I have friends that I used to fuck regularly that now it's a chore to get it up for. Sure, the sex still feels good, but it's not passionate. And when it's all said and done, they're still in the "friend" category in my brain. Some of them have suggested being more, but I've recoiled. There's nothing wrong with them, but they're friends, not potential partners. I'm 32, and my siblings are married and having kids, and the people I grew up with are married and having kids. And here I am not able to find a long-term significant other. Am I broken? Should I just accept that, at least for me, sexual partners and domestic/romantic partners will always be separate categories?

ALWAYS ALONE

What if you're not like most everyone else? What if this is just how your sexuality works? What if you're wired-emotionally, romantically, sexually—for intense but brief sexual connections that blossom into wonderful friendships? And what if you've been tricked into thinking you're broken because the kind of successful long-term relationships your siblings and friends have are celebrated and the kind of successful short-term relationships you have are stigmatized?

If your siblings and friends want to have the kinds of relationships they're havingand it's possible some do not—they will feel no inner conflict about their choices while simultaneously being showered with praise for their choices. But what are they really doing? They're doing what they want, they're doing what makes them happy, they're



Dan Savage

doing what works for them romantically, emotionally, and sexually. And what are you doing? Maybe you're doing what you want, AA, maybe you're doing what could make you happy. So why doesn't it make you happy? Maybe because you've been made to feel broken by a culture that holds up one relationship model—the partnered and preferably monogamous pair—and insists that this model is the only healthy and whole option, and that anyone who goes a different way, fucks a different way, or relates a different way is broken.

Now, it's possible you are broken, of course, but anyone could be broken. You could be broken, I could be broken, your married siblings and friends could be broken. But here's a suggestion for something I want you to try, something that might make you feel better because it could very well be true: Try to accept that, for you, sexual partners and domestic/romantic partners might always be separate, and that doesn't mean you're broken. If that self-acceptance makes you feel whole, AA, then you have vour answer.

I might make a different suggestion if your brief but intense sexual encounters left a lot of hurt feelings in their wake. But that's not the case. You hook up with someone a few times, you share an intense sexual experience, and you feel a brief romantic connection to them. And when those sexual and romantic feelings subside, you're not left with a string of bitter exes and enemies, but with a large and growing circle of good friends. Which leads me to believe that even if you aren't doing what everyone else is doing, AA, you're clearly doing something right.

P.S. Another option: a companionate marriage to one of your intimate friends-someone who also sees potential life partners and potential sex partners as two distinct categories with no overlap-and all the Grindr hookups and BDSM sessions you like with one-offs who become good friends.

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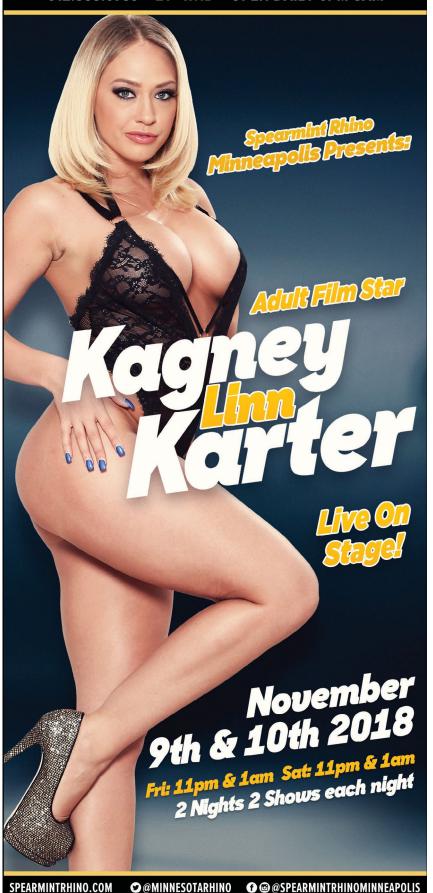




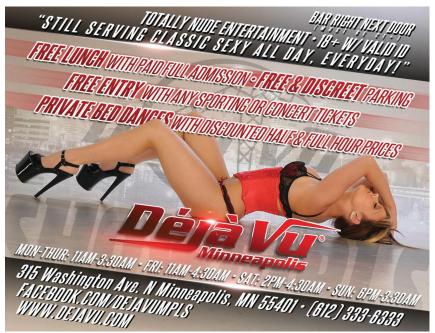


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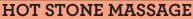






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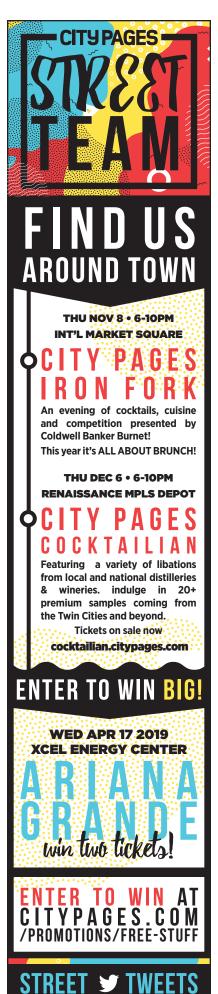




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